



TOWN OF NATICK

Spring 2008 Newsletter

*Issued by Martha White,
Town Administrator*

Natick Board of Selectmen

John Ciccariello, Chair
Joshua Ostroff, Vice Chair
Kristine Van Amsterdam, Clerk
Carol Gloff
John Connolly

March 25th Election

We appreciate the extensive civic engagement and dialogue in which many citizens have participated during this election season. We applaud and encourage your involvement.

The results of the March 25th election have been posted on the Town's website. The voters' decision with respect to Ballot Question 2 (the Proposition 2½ Override) will be carried out by Town Meeting as it deliberates the town's Fiscal Year 2009 operating budget.

Appointment of Deputy Town Administrator

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Michael K. Young as Deputy Town Administrator. Prior to coming to Natick, Michael worked with the Town of Lexington for 6 years, most recently as Budget Officer where he was responsible for, among other things, coordinating the preparation, development and production of the annual capital and operating budgets. Michael also has past experience and involvement in transportation and transit planning. Michael's expertise and experience will benefit the operations of the Town.

Expense and Revenue Task Forces

The Selectmen have established Task Forces to further investigate ideas for Expense Control and Revenue Enhancement. Public input is welcome, using contact information on the Town's website at natickma.gov, or by contacting the Board of Selectmen at selectmen@natickma.org or 508-647-6410, or by mailing your ideas to the Selectmen at 13 East Central Street. Both task forces include one member of the Board of Selectmen, School Committee and Finance Committee, along with five Citizens-at-Large.

Regional Transit Authority Suggestions Wanted

The Town's membership in the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) may provide opportunities for additional and improved bus service to serve the community, after the RTA assumes operations of the Natick Neighborhood Bus on July 1. If you have a specific request for service, please contact the selectmen's office at selectmen@natickma.org or 508-647-6410. The MWRTA will be evaluating services in Natick and other member communities, and will expand service subject to demand and funding. For information about the MWRTA, visit www.mwrta.org

Rail Trail – Save the Date

The Cochetuate Rail Trail Task Force plans a community forum on Thursday, May 8 at the Morse Institute Library to provide an update on this proposed project and to take comments and questions from the public. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

Spring Annual Town Meeting

The 2008 Annual Town Meeting will begin on Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Wilson Middle School Auditorium. The Town Meeting Warrant (which can be found on the Town's website and at Town Hall) covers a wide variety of topics, including:

- Operating and Capital budgets
- Issues related to the West Natick Fire Station
- Proposed lease of the former Eliot School

Financial Assistance Summary

The reverse side of this newsletter summarizes many of the programs available to residents to help offset the cost of local taxes, fees and other expenses. This information will be updated regularly.



Financial Assistance Summary

Savings and Exemptions for Natick Residents

The Town of Natick and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts offer a variety of programs to help reduce taxes, water/sewer charges and many other expenses for seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, income-qualified households and others. We encourage residents to make use of these programs, and to refer family, friends and neighbors who may be eligible. Participation is confidential.

To help you make informed decisions about these programs and many other opportunities, the Human Services Department is available to answer questions and provide information. Call 508-647-6519 to get started. For internet users, related information is on the Town web site at <http://natickma.gov>.

**This Financial Assistance Summary provides an overview of eleven types of assistance.
An individual, family or household may qualify for multiple programs.**

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| 1. Property Tax Circuit Breaker | 4. Elderly & Disabled Tax Fund | 8. Home heating assistance |
| 2. Veteran's, elderly and disabled exemptions | 5. Tax work-off program | 9. SERVE food distribution |
| 3. Water/sewer discount | 6. Tax deferral program | 10. Disabled accommodation |
| | 7. Tax abatements | 11. School fee exemptions |

1. Property Tax Circuit Breaker: for qualifying seniors, the Property Tax Circuit Breaker may reduce your state income taxes by up to \$900, or give you a rebate, even if you don't pay local property taxes or if the state income tax you pay is less than \$900. Contact the Council on Aging at 508-647-6540.

2. Property Tax Exemptions: Natick offers tax exemptions for seniors, veterans, legally blind and other qualifying taxpayers to the fullest extent allowed by state law. Requirements vary for different exemptions. Contact the Assessors at 508-647-6420 for information and assistance in completing the necessary forms.

3. Water/Sewer discount: if you have been granted certain local tax exemptions, you may be automatically enrolled in the lowest rate for water and sewer charges. Information, applications and assistance are available from the Assessors office; call 508-647-6420.

4. Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund: this program is funded by voluntary contributions to support qualifying Natick taxpayers. Contact the Assessors office to learn more or to apply at 508-647-6420.

5. Tax work-off program: qualifying homeowners age 60 or older may receive a property tax discount of up to \$750 for working in a Town department, doing work that is rewarding and helps the community. The rate is \$8 per hour of time worked. Call the Council on Aging at 508-647-6540 to learn more.

6. Tax deferral program: qualifying homeowners age 65 or older may defer all or part of the property taxes until their property is transferred to another individual or family. The Town then receives deferred taxes plus 4.5% annual interest. Contact the Assessors office at 508-647-6420.

7. Tax abatements: residents who believe that their real estate, motor vehicle or personal property was incorrectly assessed may contact the Assessors to request an abatement through an appeal process. The appeal period varies depending on the particular tax. Call the Assessors office at 508-647-6420.

8. Home Heating Assistance: many households qualify for help with home heating costs. Contact Human Services at 508-647-6519 or the Council on Aging at 508-647-6540.

9. SERVE Food Distribution: this is a program that provides a significant discount on food costs with no income or age eligibility requirements; participants must volunteer in the community. Call 508-647-6540.

10. Disabled accommodation: if you have paid for home improvements to accommodate a household member age 60 or older with a disability, you may qualify for a property tax exemption. Contact the Assessors office at 508-647-6420.

11. School fee exemptions: fees for school-related services such as transportation, lunch, sports, arts participation, after- and before-school programs and field trips may be waived or reduced. To learn more, call the School business office at 508-647-6493.

Is this Financial Assistance Summary helpful to you? Please send comments to Town Administrator's office by phone (508-647-6410), mail (13 East Central Street, Natick MA 01760) or email selectmen@natickma.org.

Updated February 8, 2008